

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 13, 26, 30-31, and 35-37, as shown in the following listing of all pending claims. Please cancel claims 7 and 20.

1. (currently amended) A method for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:

receiving a request for purchasing at least one telecommunication service from a buyer via a buyer terminal;

obtaining information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer;

providing the request to a plurality of seller terminals, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;

receiving a reply from at least one of the seller terminals in response to the request;

providing the reply to the buyer terminal;

receiving a selection from the buyer terminal in response to the reply; and

notifying a provider of the selection and an identity of the buyer.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

registering the buyer prior to receiving the request.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the registering includes:
obtaining contact information from the buyer,
obtaining a buyer name for the buyer, and
assigning an initial password to the buyer.
4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the registering includes:
obtaining business demographics from the buyer.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
identifying billing preferences for the at least one telecommunication service.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
receiving, from the buyer terminal, an identification of business sites to receive
the at least one telecommunication service,
identifying telecommunication services for each of the business sites, and
identifying desired features of each of the telecommunication services.
7. [canceled]
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
compiling a list of providers to receive the request; and
wherein the providing the request includes:
granting access to the request to only the providers on the list.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
compiling a list of providers to receive the request; and
wherein the providing the request includes:
distributing the request to only the providers on the list.
10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the receiving a request includes:
verifying an identity of the buyer; and
wherein the providing the request includes:
presenting the request to the seller terminals only when the identity of the buyer is
verified.
11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting, to the buyer terminal, contractual terms and conditions for providing
the at least one telecommunication service from the notified provider; and
receiving an acceptance of the terms and conditions from the buyer terminal.
12. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving, from the seller terminals, filtering criteria that specifies types of
requests the providers want to receive; and
wherein the providing the request includes:
distributing the request to seller terminals based on the filtering criteria.

13. (currently amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:

means for receiving a request for purchasing at least one telecommunication service from a buyer via a buyer terminal;

means for obtaining information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer;

means for providing the request to a plurality of seller terminals, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;

means for receiving a reply from at least one of the seller terminals in response to the request;

means for providing the reply to the buyer terminal;

means for receiving a selection from the buyer terminal in response to the reply;

and

means for notifying a provider of the selection and an identity of the buyer.

14. (currently amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services in a network connecting at least one buyer terminal, associated with a buyer, and a plurality of seller terminals, associated with different providers of telecommunication services, the system comprising:

a memory that stores data; and

a processor, connected to the memory, that receives a request for purchasing at least one telecommunication service from the buyer terminal via the network, obtains information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer, provides the request to a group of the seller terminals via the network, receives a reply from at least one of the seller terminals in response to the request, provides the reply to the buyer terminal, receives a selection from the buyer terminal in response to the reply, and notifies a provider of the selection and an identity of the buyer.

15. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to register the buyer prior to receiving the request.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein when registering the buyer, the processor is further configured to obtain contact information from the buyer, to obtain a buyer name for the buyer, and to assign an initial password to the buyer.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein when registering the buyer, the processor is further configured to obtain business demographics from the buyer.

18. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to identify billing preferences for the at least one telecommunication service.

19. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to receive, from the buyer terminal, an identification of business sites to receive the at least one telecommunication service, to identify telecommunication services for each of the business sites, and to identify desired features of each of the telecommunication services.

20. [canceled]

21. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of providers to receive the request, and when providing the request, the process or is further configured to grant access to the request to only the providers on the list.

22. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of providers to receive the request, and when providing the request, the processor is configured to distribute the request to only the providers on the list.

23. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein when receiving the request, the processor is further configured to verify an identity of the buyer, and when providing the request, the processor is further configured to present the request to the seller terminals only when the identity of the buyer is verified.

24. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to present, to the buyer terminal, contractual terms and conditions for providing the at least one telecommunication service from the notified provider, and to receive an acceptance of the terms and conditions from the buyer terminal.

25. (original) The system of claim 14, wherein the processor is further configured to receive, from the seller terminals, filtering criteria that specifies types of requests the providers want to receive, and when providing the request, the processor is further configured to distribute the request to seller terminals based on the filtering criteria.

26. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:

generating a request for select telecommunication services;

obtaining information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of a

buyer;

distributing the request to a plurality of sellers of telecommunication services;

receiving replies to the request from the sellers;

selecting at least one of the sellers based on the received replies; and

notifying the at least one seller of the selection.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating a request includes:
compiling a list of sellers to receive the request; and

wherein the distributing the request includes:

granting access to the request to only the sellers on the list.

28. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating a request includes:

compiling a list of sellers to receive the request; and

wherein the distributing the request includes:

transmitting the request to only the sellers on the list.

29. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the generating a request includes:

verifying an identity of an initiator of the request; and

wherein the distributing the request includes:

presenting the request to the sellers only when the identity is verified.

30. (currently amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services,

comprising:

means for generating a request for select telecommunication services;

means for obtaining information regarding prior use of telecommunication

services of a buyer;

means for distributing the request to a plurality of sellers of telecommunication

services;

means for receiving replies to the request from the sellers;

means for selecting at least one of the sellers based on the received replies; and
means for notifying the at least one seller of the selection.

31. (currently amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services, comprising:
a memory that stores data; and
a processor, connected to the memory, that generates a request for select telecommunication services, **obtains information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of a buyer,** distributes the request to a plurality of sellers of telecommunication services, receives replies to the request from the sellers, selects at least one of the sellers based on the received replies, and notifies the at least one seller of the selection.

32. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein when generating the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of sellers to receive the request, and when distributing the request, the processor is further configured to grant access to the request to only the sellers on the list.

33. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein when generating the request, the processor is further configured to compile a list of sellers to receive the request, and when distributing the request, the processor is further configured to transmit the request to only the sellers on the list.

34. (original) The system of claim 31, wherein when generating the request, the processor is further configured to perform a qualification process to verify an identity of an initiator of the request, and when distributing the request, the processor is configured to present the request to ~the sellers only when the identity is verified.

35. (currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving requests for providing telecommunication services from a plurality of buyers via a plurality of buyer terminals, **the requests including information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of at least one of the plurality of buyers;**

providing the requests to a plurality of seller terminals, the requests excluding identities of the buyers, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;

receiving replies from the seller terminals in response to the requests;

providing the replies to the buyer terminals;

receiving selections from the buyer terminals based on the replies; and

notifying providers of the selections and the identities of the buyers.

36. (currently amended) A system for purchasing telecommunication services in a network connecting a plurality of buyer terminals, associated with a plurality of buyers, and a plurality of seller terminals, associated with a corresponding plurality of providers of telecommunication services, the system comprising:

a memory that stores data; and

a processor, connected to the memory, that receives requests for telecommunication services from the buyers via the buyer terminals, **obtains information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of at least one of the plurality of buyers,** provides the requests to groups of the seller terminals, the requests excluding identities of the buyers, receives replies from the seller terminals in response to the requests, provides the replies to the buyer terminals, receives selections from the buyer terminals based on the replies, and notifies providers of the selection and the identities of the buyers.

37. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium configured to store instructions that cause a computer to perform the steps of:

receiving requests for providing telecommunication services from a plurality of buyers via a plurality of buyer terminals, **the requests including information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of the buyer;**

providing the requests to a plurality of seller terminals, the requests excluding identities of the buyers, each of the seller terminals being associated with a different provider of telecommunication services;

receiving replies from the seller terminals in response to the requests;

providing the replies to the buyer terminals;

receiving selections from the buyer terminals based on the replies; and

notifying providers of the selections and the identities of the buyers.

38. (currently amended) A computer readable medium configured to store instructions that cause a computer to perform the steps of:

generating a request for select telecommunication services, **the request including information regarding prior use of telecommunication services of a buyer;**

distributing the request to a plurality of providers of telecommunication services;

receiving replies to the request from the providers;

selecting at least one of the providers based on the received replies; and

notifying the at least one provider of the selection.